

## **Darrell Cowles**

### **Division at Large Candidate**



I have been an avid modeler all my life, from contest level plastic model cars, R/C airplanes. In 1992, I started HO model railroading after visiting a train show in Fort Worth with my daughter. I have the SLSF Lionel Texas Special train I received for Christmas when I was 10 years old permanently displayed on a shelf in my office. I had the obligatory 4'x8' plywood layout in our garage when growing up. I have been a NMRA member since 2006 when, as CEO, I led the Texas Western Model RR Club into becoming a 100% NMRA club. I looked at the advantages of being a NMRA member, combined with supporting the main entity that insures our hobby is regulated, seemed the right thing to do. Through the years our club has received the benefits of being an NMRA 100% club and all it offers. I lead the Texas Western as Chief Executive Officer for 11 years, and was on the Board of Directors for many more. I spearheaded the move to become a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, and I was in charge of our club's Texas Western Model Train Show in Forest Hill for the years 2014-2017. This included advertising, planning, management, and execution. This show was an NMRA sanctioned event complete with contest room and NMRA membership booth. I aided the club during transition from our first location to our current location in Forest Hill, and designed the 2,450 sq. ft. double deck layout you see developing today with help and input from others. I was presented Lifetime Membership in 2012 by the club membership for my contributions to the club.

The NMRA has been invaluable to building my modeling knowledge and has brought me many new lifelong friends; plus improved my modeling skills. I have also worked various duties at the LSR 2013 Lone Star Express, the 2016 Daylight Express, and the 2019 Texas Special conventions in support of our region. I attained my Volunteer AP Certificate. I use the NMRA website to find information regarding projects and standards for many years, and encourage others to do the same. I have been Director at Large in the Lone Star Region since 2020